[11th September 1959

Express Newspapers, Limited

* *S.N.Q.* 5.—SRI K. SATTANATHA KARAYALAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government are aware that a sum of about Rs. 9½ lakhs is due from the Express Newspapers to the provident fund; and

(*b*) what steps the Government propose to take to realise this sum from the Company?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : (*a*) Yes, Sir.

(*b*) At the request of the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner, Madras, the Government asked the Collector of Madras to recover the amount from the company under the Revenue Recovery Act. But the company filed a writ petition in the High Court against the recovery of the amount and the High Court has issued a stay order restraining the Collector of Madras from taking further action in the matter pending orders on the writ petition.

MR. SPEAKER : Is the matter pending before the Court? If so, it is *sub judice* and I cannot allow any supplementary question. Anyway, I would like to have clarification from the Hon. Minister.

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Sir, questions about the amount of arrears, etc., can be asked, but no questions about the legality of the claim, etc., can be put here.

SRI N. K. PALANISAMI : இந்தப் பண விஷயம் முடிவதற்கு முன்பு தொழில் மந்திரி அவர்களிடம் வேலை நிறுத்தத்தை சமரசமாகத் தீர்ப்பதற்கு வழி செய்யப்படவேண்டும் என்ற கோரிக்கை வந்ததா? இதன் அடிப்படையில் அமைச்சர் அவர்கள் சென்று விவாதித்தார்களா?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : இந்தக் கேள்விக்கும், சமரசம் செய்வதற்கும் விவாதம் செய்வதற்கும் சம்பந்தம் இல்லை.

SRI K. VINAYAKAM : Sir, in the matter of collection of provident fund, is it not the practice to collect the amount every month when the salary is disbursed and credit it to the fund and if so, what was the delay due to in this case and who was the person responsible for not collecting the amount then and there?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : The Provident Fund Act was passed in 1952 and it came into force from 1956. The amount was due up to 31st December 1956. That is an accumulated amount and has to be transferred within one year. The amounts accruing after 1st of January 1957 have been regularly paid. The claim is filed only in respect of the arrears up to 31st December 1956.